

Abandoned Mine Safety Fund Annual Report

December 1, 2007

Statutory Authority:

ARS §27-129: Locating abandoned mines

A. ... the state mine inspector shall establish a program to locate, inventory, classify and eliminate public safety hazards at abandoned mines ...

In addition, ARS § 27-131: Abandoned mines safety fund; annual report

A. ...the abandoned mines safety fund is established consisting of:

1. Gifts, grants, and contributions specifically designated for the fund.
2. Monies that may be appropriated by the legislature to the fund to match the gifts, grants and contributions based on the preceding year's expenditure report required under subsection D of this section

B. The state mine inspector shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are exempt from lapsing pursuant to section 35-190.

C. Monies in the fund are continuously appropriated to the inspector to ensure public safety at abandoned mines on land owned by this state as provided by section 27-129. The inspector shall use monies in the fund to pay contractors for actual abatement costs to fill, fence or plug shafts and adits and not to pay administrative salaries and other costs. The inspector shall consult with the state land commissioner to identify and prioritize the abandoned mine sites on state lands to be considered for abatement.

D. Each year the inspector shall submit an annual report to the joint legislative budget committee on or before December 1 concerning the expenditure of monies from the fund and contributions to the fund during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall itemize each expense paid from the fund and shall describe the actions taken to ensure public safety.

Financial Statement:

The following is a summary of financial transactions during State Fiscal 2007:

Activity	Amount	Closure	Entity
Beginning Balance	\$4,815		
Funds Received July 1, 2007	\$0.00		FY2007 General Appropriation

Activity	Amount	Closure	Entity
Deposit, May 3, 2007	\$50,000		Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. formally known as Phelps Dodge.
Ending Balance June 30, 2007	\$54,815		

The following is a summary of mine shafts secured during State Fiscal 2007:

Project Name	Project Details	County	Expected Timeline	Project Costs
Gibson shafts	6 Shafts 60' to 100' filled	Pinal	March 10- 2007	In-kind services
Jerome Carrow	2 Shafts 60' and 100' Fenced and signed	Yavapai	March 15- 2007	In-kind services
Chloride shafts	3 shafts 80' 80' 100' Fenced and signed	Yavapai	March 30- 2007	In-kind services
Florence Jct. shaft	1 shaft 60' Fenced and signed	Pinal	May 17- 2007	In-kind services
North Butte shafts	3 shafts 42' 80' 100' Fenced and signed (Bid going on to be filled)	Pinal	June 1- 2007	In-kind services
Reymert Mine	4 shafts 200' to 300' filled	Pinal	June 13- 2007	In-kind Services
Cochran shaft	1 shaft 25' fenced and signed	Pinal	June 28 & 29- 2007	In-kind services
Totals	20 Projects covering 7 mine sites 2 Counties involved.			\$0.00

Summary of Future Projects:**Abandoned Mine Land Physical Safety Sites**

Thirty-five projects covering four mine sites have been identified for closure in FY2008 on State managed lands in Arizona. The most significant types of mine hazard features are open shafts, adits, and stopes. These areas typically have high use for backcountry touring and off highway vehicle activities, rock hounding, and recreational mineral collection by winter visitors, or are located near populated areas.

Remediation at key sites is guided by focused inventory assessments starting with those sites that are clustered in proximity to sites with high public exposure.

Priority Physical Safety Hazard Sites for closure FY2008: Additional work is planned for areas not included in the list.

Project Name	Project Details	County	Expected Timeline	Estimated Project Costs
Charleston Lead Mine	3 shafts 60' 80' 100' backfilled	Cochise	September 26, 27, 28 - 2007	In-kind services + \$3100.00
Ford Mine	5 shafts 60' to 100' fixed fencing and signed (To be backfilled)	Pinal	October 29- 2007	Pending RFP
Black Hills	25 shafts 100' to 200' signed (To be backfilled)	Pinal	November 15- 2007	Pending RFP
Florence Jct. Mines	2 Shafts 65' 85' (To be backfilled)	Pinal	January 16- 2008	Pending RFP
Totals	35 Projects covering 4 Mine sites 2 Counties involved.			Pending

The Arizona State Mine Inspector's ability to accomplish this workload will be based on level of funding. We believe we have made significant progress in the last year in establishing AML teams that are poised to accomplish the work, in raising the awareness internally and externally of the importance of the AML program to public health and safety, and in garnering other agency management support to move forward with this strategy.